72. Some educational problems.

MR. K. GOPALA PANIKKAR KRISHNA PANIKKAR (*Municipal Council, Tiruvalla*) said that it was more than half a dozen years since Travancoreans had been refused admission to the Engineering College at Madras. The arrangement by which a few seats in the Engineering College at Benares were reserved for Travancoreans was not a convenient one in view of the expenditure involved. The amount of Rs. 10,000 awarded to the said University by the Travancore Government every year might be more profitably utilised for opening an Engineering school in the State. The bifurcation of the College at Trivandrum into the Arts College and Science College and the opening of a Training College and Law College were the outcome of a deep conviction on the part of the Government that they were necessary for the well-being of the citizens of the State. It was hoped therefore that Government would open an Engineering school also in the State.

Annually no less than 1,000 young men passed out of the schools with Secondary School Leaving Certificates. The starting of a Medical school would help a large number of those young men to study medicine and earn a decent living. The opening of a Medical school would not cost the Government a large amount if the pupils could be permitted to finish their course in Physics, Chemistry and Botany in the College of Science.

The existence of a Carpentry and Smithery School at Quilon was a matter for satisfaction. But the opening of a few more schools of that kind would increase its value and help to relieve the poverty of the land.

There were more private schools in the State than departmental schools. The conditions of service in the two kinds of institutions were materially different. The teachers employed in private schools had all the responsibilities and none of the privileges of their brethren in departmental schools. In the private schools, there was no security of tenure, no proper scale of emoluments and no pension or bonus on retirement. The Managers did pretty much what they liked with the teachers in their employ. It was therefore desirable to render the conditions of service in private schools more attractive by making rules providing for permanency of tenure and by making the institution of Provident Fund Schemes a condition precedent to the recognition of such schools. A fairly large percentage of appointments in the Education department of the Government should be reserved for teachers employed in private schools.

Agricultural farms should be attached to all schools. Experimental farms should be opened in the vicinity of Vernacular Middle schools and English schools to be worked, under proper guidance, by the pupils.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Krishna Panikkar. As regards your representation for the starting of an Engineering School or College, in spite of the fact that there are some restrictions which the Madras Colleges have imposed on the admission of students from the State, we have no dearth of qualified Engineers or Doctors for appointments in the State. As a

matter of fact, I understand that there are more qualified Doctors here than the Medical department can take in. In order to meet the desire of our young men for higher training in Engineering, Government have made certain negotiations, as you yourself have stated, with the Benares University. But your complaint seems to be that our young men who go to Benares, have to spend a great deal on the arrangements and expenditure there. As a matter of fact, I understand that living is cheaper in Benare than it is in Trivandrum. The opening of an Engineering College or a Medical College is a matter likely to cost a great deal of money. That, of course, I think should not stand in the way of Government starting an institution which is an actual necessity. Having regard to the circumstances that I have stated before, though it is a necessary institution, I do not think that it is so absolutely necessary or urgent that, whether there is money or not, we should immediately embark upon starting such an institution.

You have made several other useful suggestions with regard to educational reform. All your suggestions have been noted and will be duly considered by Government.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. the next day.